

Editors of the Dispatch: I have read with much interest the names of the multitude of authors who have written on the subject of "Old Blandford" have been attributed, and now, as the contention and discussion have abated, I wish to inform the readers of your valued paper of the true author of the poetry. It was written by the late General John B. Stricker, Confederate States army, who was killed in the battle of Sharpsburg. In the year 1862, while a young man, he was stricken with a severe case of cholera while passing through Petersburg, and was detained at the "Old Blandford" for the first time after his recovery, being so impressed with the surroundings, he wrote the lines which you have printed on the wall, and signed "Stricker," and not "A Stranger." The little incident is alluded to in one of his private journals which is still in possession of his family. A Mr. Turner, of Petersburg, also mentioned a few lines of the poetry, and mentioned a companion on the occasion and witnessing him write the lines. It has been a matter of no moment, but since all are anxious as to the author of the lines, probably the certainty of the fact will be satisfactory.

Very respectfully,
ONE WHO KNOWS.

Editors of Richmond Dispatch: The premium list of the Virginia Agricultural Society for 1878 has been made its appearance, and shows a change in many farm-products to suit the growing "small-farm interest" of the State. All who own five acres of land can compete for all the premiums. It is a matter, however, that the farmer did not appear sooner, as the time of preparation has passed.

A premium of \$20 is offered for the best acre of corn, wheat, oats, hay, tobacco, cotton, ground-peas, broom-corn, German clover, Spanish chufas, prickly pears, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, and winter cabbages, \$10 for the best of any one of these crops, and \$5 for the best of any one of the turkeys, \$5 per bushel for the best specimen of the cereals, and living premiums on the best specimen of vegetables.

Nothing can now be done to increase the crops of wheat, winter corn, and clover; but the season for the application of the best of using most fertilizers can be resorted to with great advantage on corn, tobacco, all kinds of truck, together with the non-descript chufas, and prickly pears. All sorts and kinds of manures, made or bought, may be used with advantage on the soil during cultivation, and I am in hopes the farmers of the State will do their best to fill up the produce department of the fair.

Arrangements have been or will probably be made to transport persons and material to the fair at reduced rates, and it lacks nothing but will and muscle on the part of our farmers and truckers to make our fair agricultural in fact.

Two sailors happened to be on a military parade-ground, when the soldiers were all going through the evolutions of marking time. One sailor, observing the movements of the company very attentively, with eyes fixed and arms akimbo, asked him what he thought of it. "Well," replied the other, "I am thinking the company must be a very strong fellow running this morning, for these poor fellows have been pulling away this half hour and have not got an inch ahead yet."

The girls of Tusculum, Ill., place a blue ribbon and a mitten on the table when two young men meet they don't. That shows who were kissing the worst.—Young Folks' World.

Buffalo's champion carman has started business as a peddler. He will attempt to peddle 400 miles in 123 hours.—Nycum Advertiser.

FURNITURE.

FURNITURE AND MATTHEWS.

A great reduction in prices of FURNITURE and MATTHEWS.

Extraordinary inducements to buyers.

See my stock between 5th and 6th streets.

my 15-608m

FURNITURE—1208 EAST MAIN.

A large stock of furniture, including 200 cases of the latest styles, which for durability and finish cannot be surpassed.

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WANTED.

WANTED, BY A COMPETENT MAN, A SITUATION TO TAKE CHARGE OF AND RUN A STATIONARY ENGINE. Best of references given. Address or address to Mr. J. B. COOK, 1113 Main street, my 22-14

WANTED, PURCHASERS FOR NEW AND SECOND-HAND ROCKERS, LIGHT AND HEAVY, AND ALL KINDS OF FURNITURE. Also, one fine WAGONETTE, made to accommodate twelve persons, but little used. Address to Mr. J. B. COOK, 1113 Main street, my 18

WANTED, A SECOND-HAND STATIONARY ENGINE, thirty or forty horse power, for a mill. Address to Mr. J. B. COOK, 1113 Main street, my 18-14

COOK WANTED, I wish to hire a COOK to go about three miles from the city. If desired, would employ a man. Address to Mr. J. B. COOK, 1113 Main street, my 17-1003t

WOOL WANTED, Having just received orders for WOOL direct from factories, we are enabled to pay the highest cash market price for same. We will receive promptly for any WOOL sent to us from the country. Empty bags furnished to shippers free of charge. Address to Mr. J. B. COOK, 1113 Main street, my 22-14

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AUCTION SALES—This Day.

By E. B. Cook, Auctioneer, No. 20 Governor street.

CLOSING SALE OF BOOKS.—Mr. E. B. COOK will close TO-NIGHT the SALE OF THE BOOKS AT 12 O'CLOCK. Do not fail to attend, as this will positively be your last opportunity to secure bargains in books. my 22-14

By J. Thompson Brown, Real Estate Agent and Auctioneer, 1113 Main street.